

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of assigning access information for a teleconference to a group of conferees, comprising:
 - assigning a conference I.D. number including a plurality of digits to the group of conferees;
 - dividing the conference I.D. number into a first portion including at least one digit and a second portion including at least one digit;
 - assigning an input sequence of digits to the group of conferees, the input sequence being derived from the first portion of the conference I.D. number through a predetermined mapping;
 - and
 - assigning a PIN to each conferee of the group of conferees, the PIN being derived from the second portion of the conference I.D. number through a predetermined mapping.
2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising assigning access information to a predetermined teleconference to each conferee of the group of conferees based on a combination of the input sequence of digits and the PIN entered by each conferee.
3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein dividing the conference I.D. number into a first portion and a second portion includes dividing the conference I.D. number in half.
4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein dividing the conference I.D. number into the first portion and the second portion includes selecting alternate digits of the plurality of digits of the conference I.D. number to form the first portion, and forming the second portion from the remaining ones of the plurality of digits of the conference I.D. number.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein assigning the input sequence of digits includes assigning to the group of conferees an IP address.
6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein assigning the input sequence of digits includes assigning a telephone number.
7. (currently amended) A method of allocating available space on a teleconferencing bridge to a group of subscriber units, the method comprising:
receiving information derived from a telephone number upon which a call from a subscriber unit is received, the telephone number including a first string of digits;
receiving a PIN from the subscriber unit;
deriving, from the PIN and the information derived from the telephone number, a conference I.D. number that includes a second string of digits at least partly derived from the first string of digits;
validating the conference I.D. number; and
allocating the space to the subscriber unit based on a result of validating the conference I.D. number.
8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein receiving information derived from the telephone number includes receiving an area code associated with the telephone number.
9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein deriving the conference I.D. number comprises combining the PIN and at least a portion of the information derived from the telephone number.
10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein deriving the conference I.D. number comprises combining a string of digits derived from the PIN with the information derived from the telephone number.

11. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a plurality of instructions for execution on at least one processor, the plurality of instructions performing a method for accessing a teleconference, the method comprising:

receiving information derived from an input sequence entered by a subscriber unit, the input sequence including a first string of digits;

receiving a PIN from the subscriber unit;

deriving, from the PIN and the information derived from the input sequence, a conference I.D. number that includes a second string of digits, at least a portion of the second string of digits being derived from the first string of digits; and

validating the conference I.D. number.

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12. (original) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 11, wherein the method further includes connecting the subscriber unit to a predetermined teleconference based on the validation of the conference I.D. number.

13. (original) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 11, wherein deriving the conference I.D. number comprises combining the PIN and at least a portion of the information derived from the input sequence.

14. canceled

15. (currently amended) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 14 11, wherein the first string of digits is a telephone number.

16. (currently amended) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 14 11, wherein the first string of digits is an IP address.

17. (currently amended) A teleconferencing bridge including at least one programmable device effecting a sequence of instructions comprising:

receiving information derived from a first string of digits entered by a conferee;

receiving a PIN entered by the conferee;

deriving, from the PIN and a portion of the information derived from the first string of digits, a conference I.D. number; and

validating the conference I.D. number;

wherein the conference I.D. number includes a second string of digits, at least a portion of the second string of digits being derived from the first string of digits.

18. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 17, wherein the sequence of instructions further comprises connecting the conferee to a predetermined teleconference based on the validation of the conference I.D. number.

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19. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 17, wherein the at least one programmable device includes a digital signal processor (DSP).

20. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 17, wherein the programmable device includes a storage element that stores a database of records corresponding to a plurality of conferees.

21. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 17, wherein the first string of digits is an IP address.

22. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 17, wherein the first string of digits is a telephone number.

23. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 22, wherein the sequence of instructions includes:

receiving information derived from an area code of the telephone number entered by the conferee; and

utilizing the information derived from the area code to assign billing information to a record corresponding to the conferee.

24. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 23, wherein the information derived from the area code includes country code information.

25. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 17, wherein deriving the conference I.D. number comprises combining the PIN and at least a portion of the information derived from the first string of digits.

26. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 22, wherein the information derived from the telephone number comprises billing information.

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27. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 17, wherein the at least one programmable device includes a storage element and wherein validating the conference I.D. includes comparing the conference I.D. with a plurality of conference I.D.s stored in the storage element.

28. canceled

29. (currently amended) A teleconferencing bridge including at least one programmable device effecting a sequence of instructions comprising:

receiving information derived from an input sequence entered by a conferee, the input sequence comprising a first string of digits;

receiving a PIN from the conferee; and

generating a conference I.D. number including a second string of digits based on derived from at least a portion of information received the first string of digits and the PIN.

30. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 29, wherein the sequence of instructions further comprises allowing the conferee access to a predetermined conference based on the conference I.D. number.

31. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 29, wherein the input sequence comprises a telephone number.

32. (original) The teleconferencing bridge as claimed in claim 29, wherein the input sequence comprises an IP address.

33. (newly added) A teleconferencing bridge including at least one programmable device effecting a sequence of instructions comprising:

assigning a conference I.D. number including a plurality of digits to the group of conferees;

dividing the conference I.D. number into a first portion including at least one digit and a second portion including at least one digit;

assigning an input sequence of digits to the group of conferees, the input sequence being derived from the first portion of the conference I.D. number through a predetermined mapping; and

assigning a PIN to each conferee of the group of conferees, the PIN being derived from the second portion of the conference I.D. number through a predetermined mapping.

34. (newly added) A computer readable medium encoded with a plurality of instructions for execution on at least one processor, the plurality of instructions performing a method of assigning access information for a teleconference to a group of conferees, comprising:

assigning a conference I.D. number including a plurality of digits to the group of conferees;

dividing the conference I.D. number into a first portion including at least one digit and a second portion including at least one digit;

assigning an input sequence of digits to the group of conferees, the input sequence being derived from the first portion of the conference I.D. number through a predetermined mapping; and

assigning a PIN to each conferee of the group of conferees, the PIN being derived from the second portion of the conference I.D. number through a predetermined mapping.